

~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~

CATEGORY = 1

M = 40

MESSAGE = 00012559

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RR ZH7-DE

PP [REDACTED] DE

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TO OSCAR/UNIFORM TANGO ZEM ~~TOP SECRET UMBRA~~ THE SECTION SEVEN

3/0/SIY/R296-67 NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY SOUTHEAST ASIA SIGINT SUMMARY ALTHOUGH THERE WERE NO SIGINT REFLECTIONS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT ENEMY GROUND ACTIVITY IN THE NAM BAC AREA DURING THE PAST WEEK, ROYAL LAOTIAN ARMY (RLA) HEADQUARTERS ADVISED THAT THE SITUATION THERE IS STILL "CRITICAL". IN EARLY DECEMBER THE RLA ORDERED THE MOVEMENT OF A PARACHUTE BATTALION FROM SOUTH LAOS TO LUANG PRABANG AS A SUPPORT FORCE IN COUNTER-ING AN EXPECTED "NEW" ENEMY OFFENSIVE AT NAM BAC. IN SAYABOURY PROVINCE, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT THE RLA WOULD LAUNCH AN OPERATION ON 12 DECEMBER TO COUNTER THE INTENSIFIED ENEMY ACTIVITY IN THE HONG SA (19-42N 101-20E, QD 4580) AND XIENG LOM (19-37N 100-49E, PB 9170) REGION. RLA SUPPLY LINES ARE SAID TO BE UNDER THREAT AND ON 7 DECEMBER, A PATHET LAO (PL) COMPANY ATTACKED AN RLA BATTALION AT HONG SA. FAR TO THE NORTH, IN PHONG SALY PROVINCE, A U.S. HELICOPTER WAS SHOT DOWN IN LATE NOVEMBER KILLING THE PILOT, M. BURKE, ACCORDING TO AN 8 DECEMBER DISSIDENT NEUTRALIST (I.E., GEN KHAMMOUANE) MESSAGE. THE FATE OF THE TWO OTHER CREW MEMBERS IS AS YET UNDISCLOSED. MILITARY REGION 2 COMMUNIST ACTIVITY SOUTHWEST OF SAI NEUA CONTINUES TO BE HEAVY. ON 6 DECEMBER, PHA LOUAM (20-02N 103-58E, UH 9216) FELL TO TWO ENEMY BATTALIONS AND A THIRD BATTALION ATTACKED BAN CHONG (20-02N 103-55E, UH 8715). TWO DAYS LATER, AN ENEMY BATTALION CAPTURED RLA POSITIONS AT BAN TIO BOUANG (20-04N 103-54E, UH 8519) AND HA LENG (20-05N 103-53E, UH 8420). TO THE NORTH, IT WAS REPORTED ON 8 DECEMBER THAT AN ESTIMATED TWO PAVN BATTALIONS HAD MOVED WEST FROM SAI NEUA TO THE AREA OF UH 6868 (20-31N 103-44E). THE ENEMY PROPAGANDIZED THAT THEY INTEND TO ATTACK RLA GUERRILLA FORCES IN THE AREA EITHER DURING DECEMBER OR IN JANUARY 1968. IN OTHER DEVELOPMENTS, AN F-105 REPORTEDLY CRASHED ON 5 DECEMBER NEAR ROUTE 6 AT UH 9234 (20-12N 103-58E). THE FATE OF THE PILOT IS UNKNOWN. SOUTH LAOS MILITARY REGION

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(b) (3) - P.L. 86-36